(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Steps taken to restore normalcy after riots

2364. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of States/places where riots took place in the last six months of the country;

(b) the reasons for these riots; and

(c) the steps taken by Government or State Governments to restore normalcy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) During the last six months, no communal riot is reported to have taken place in the country.

(b) to (c) Do not arise.

Financial assistance to M.P. to study disasters

†2365. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Madhya Pradesh has submitted a proposal to Government for providing financial assistance to study mapping and management of disasters like flood and earthquake;

(b) whether Government have reviewed this proposal and the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred on it;

(c) whether Government have sanctioned any fund for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) No sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Terms of reference to MM Punchhi panel

2366. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of terms of reference given to MM Punchhi Panel which goes afresh into Centre State relations and communal violence aspects;

(b) whether the Panel will also look into the various aspects of Inter-linking of Rivers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) to (c) The Government has constituted a Commission on Centre-State Relations under the Chairpersonship of Shri Justice Madan Mohan Punchhi (Retd.), former Chief Justice of India *vide* Gazette Notification dated the 27th April, 2007. The terms of reference (TOR) of the Commission have been given in the Statement (*See* below). AS per its TOR, while examining and making its recommendations, the Commission will *inter alia* consider "The role, responsibility and jurisdiction of the Centre *vis-a-vis* States in the planning and implementation of the mega projects like the inter-linking of rivers, that would normally take 15-20 years for completion and hinge vitally on the support of the States".

Statement

Details regarding terms of reference of the Commission

The terms of reference of the Commission on Centre-State Relations, which has been set up under the Chairpersonship of Shri Justice Madan Mohan Punchhi (Retd.), former Chief Justice of India, are as follows:

(i) The Commission will examine and review the working of the existing arrangements between the Union and States as per the Constitution of India, the healthy precedents being followed, various pronouncements of the Courts in regard to powers, functions and responsibilities in all spheres including legislative relations, administrative relations, role of governors, emergency provisions, financial relations, economic and social planning, Panchayati Raj institutions, sharing of resources; including inter-State river water and recommend such changes or other measures as may be appropriate keeping in view the practical difficulties.

(ii) In examining and reviewing the working of the existing arrangements between the Union and States and making recommendations as to the changes and measures needed, the Commission will keep in view the social and economic developments that have taken place over the years particularly over the last two decades and have due regard to the scheme and framework of the Constitution. Such recommendations would also need to address the growing challenges of ensuring good governance for promoting the welfare of the people whilst strengthening the unity and integrity of the country, and of availing emerging opportunities for sustained and rapid economic growth for alleviating poverty and illiteracy in the early decades of the new millennium.

(iii) While examining and making its recommendations on the above, the Commission shall have particular regard, but not limit its mandate to the following:-

(a) The role, responsibility and jurisdiction of the Centre *vis-a-vis* States during major and prolonged outbreaks of communal violence, caste violence or any other social conflict leading to prolonged and escalated violence.

(b) The role, responsibility and jurisdiction of the Centre *vis-a-vis* States in the planning and implementation of the mega projects like the inter-linking of rivers, that would normally take 15-20 years for completion and hinge vitally on the support of the States.

(c) The role, responsibility and jurisdiction of the Centre *vis-a-vis* States in promoting effective devolution of powers and autonomy to Panchayati Raj Institutions and Local Bodies including the Autonomous Bodies under the 6 Schedule of the Constitution within a specified period of time.

(d) The role, responsibility and jurisdiction of the Centre *vis-a-vis* States in promoting the concept and practice of independent planning and budgeting at the District level.

(e) The role, responsibility and jurisdiction of the Centre *vis-a.-vis* States in linking Central assistance of various kinds with the performance of the States.

(f) The role, responsibility and jurisdiction of the Centre in adopting approaches and policies based on positive discrimination in favour of backward States.

(g) The impact of the recommendations made by the 8th to 12th Finance Commissions on the fiscal relations between the Centre and the States, especially the greater dependence of the States on devolution of funds from the Centre.

(h) The need and relevance of separate taxes on the production and on the sales of goods and services subsequent to the introduction of Value Added Tax regime.

(i) The need for freeing inter-State trade in order to establish a unified and integrated domestic market as also in the context of the reluctance of State Governments to adopt the relevant Sarkaria Commission's recommendation in chapter XVIII of its report.

(j) The need for setting up a Central Law Enforcement Agency empowered to take up *suo moto* investigation of crimes having inter-State and/or international ramifications with serious implications on national security.

(k) The feasibility of a supporting legislation under Article 355 for the purpose of *suo moto* deployment of Central forces in the States if and when the situation so demands.

Violation of Lotteries Regulation Act

2367. PROF. PJ. KURIEN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a number of lotteries are conducted in the country in violation of section 4 of the Lotteries Regulation Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government in this regard;